

GUY BINGHAM ⁶⁻²¹⁻¹⁹²³ MEETS ACCIDENTAL DEATH MONDAY

FISHING PARTY AT FORT ENDS
DISASTROUSLY FOR LOCAL
YOUNG MAN

Groton was plunged into sorrow Monday afternoon when word was received here from Fort Sisseton that Guy Bingham, employed at the Milwaukee station here, had met death while fishing about 4 o'clock that afternoon.

Guy went to the Fort with a party composed of Mr. and Mrs. John Zeller, and daughter, Miss Clara, Mr. and Mrs. Len Zeller, and two Swearingen boys, Robert and Harry and wife, and Mrs. F. B. Kressler, of Buda, Ill. They left Groton about noon, and upon arriving there the merry-makers enjoyed a splendid day of fishing until the accident occurred which ended in the death of Mr. Bingham.

One of the party, while fishing, lost the cork from their line, and in attempting to recover it Guy met his death. The cork had floated perhaps 150 or 200 feet from shore, and Guy being the only one in the party who could swim, swam out to the cork. In making the distance from the shore to the cork, he showed no fatigue, but rather swam with sure, strong, steady strokes, and apparently was easily master of the waters. But just as he reached the cork, he grabbed for it, and in turning sank from view. Upon arising he was asked if he was sinking, and he replied that he was. A moment later he sank from view, not to arise until his body was recovered an hour later. It is supposed he was stricken with cramps, and the intensity of the attack drew him beneath the surface of the water.

Those on the shore were witnesses to his untimely death, but owing to the fact that not one in the party could swim, were unable to render him assistance. Strenuous efforts, however, were made to reach him, but these were unsuccessful. A life line was formed with John Zeller at the head, re-inforced by the other male members of the party. They waded out into the lake as far as possible, but were unable to extend him assistance, even with a long pole. The pole lacked about ten feet of reaching the man struggling in the water. The body sank in about ten feet of water, and about 150 feet from the shore. It was recovered an hour later with a boat and garden rake, borrowed from a farm house about a half or three quarters of a mile from the lake.

The drowning occurred at the south end of Cat-Tail slough, or what is popularly known in Groton as Graham lake, south of old Fort Sisseton. This lake has been a favorite with Groton fishermen for years, and was never considered dangerous or treacherous. The place is extensively visited by Grotonites because of the plentiful supply of fish, and the natural beauty and picnicking facilities of the groves.

Mr. Bingham leaves a wife and three small children, together with a mother and several brothers, and a host of other relatives to mourn his untimely death.

For years he has been connected with the Milwaukee station here in the capacity of day operator, and while engaged in his duties made many friends through his unfailing courtesy and accommodating nature. Coupled with his devotion to duty, he was greatly admired for his rugged honesty and sterling citizenship. He was about 37 years old at the time of his death.

Guy was also a loyal member of both the Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias orders. He took an active part in these organizations, and at the last meeting of the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows represented Groton lodge in the capacity of delegate.

His father met death through an automobile accident about two years ago. Guy's hand was broken at the time of his father's death.

The funeral will be held Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock, at the home, following which services will be conducted at the Methodist church by Rev. C. B. Harrold, of Huron. The obsequies will be of the order of Odd Fellows, and in charge of H. T. Dietrich, who drove over to the Fort after the body Monday evening. Interment will be made in Groton cemetery.